

Application No.: 10/523,972

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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

*Please amend the claims as follows:*

1. (Currently Amended) A battery storing device ~~for use in a vehicle~~ comprising:  
a battery storing section that can store a battery inside and has a heat retaining function of retaining heat of the battery that is stored inside using vacuum heat insulating material;  
a heat retention releasing mechanism for releasing the heat retaining function; and  
an independent discharge circuit having a heating resistor,  
whose resistance increases automatically, so that heat generating current stops,  
wherein the heat retention releasing mechanism opens and closes an opening for making air flow between the inside and outside of the battery storing section; and  
said independent discharge circuit is electrically connected to the battery and can perform discharge independently from the charge/discharge operation of a main circuit,  
wherein said independent discharge circuit is for suppressing the ambient temperature of the battery.

2-4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously presented) A battery storing device according to claim 1, wherein the independent discharge circuit has at least a PTC device.

6. (Previously presented) A battery storing device according to claim 1, further comprising: a temperature detector for detecting temperature inside the battery storing section; and a circuit control section for controlling the independent discharge circuit based on the temperature detected by the temperature detector.

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7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously presented) A battery storing device according to claim 1, wherein the heat retention releasing mechanism comprises: a heat conductor forming a heat conduction route for conducting heat between the inside and outside of the battery storing section; and  
a mechanism for opening and closing the heat conduction route.

9. (Previously presented) A battery storing device according to claim 1, further comprising: a temperature detector for detecting temperature inside the battery storing section;  
and

a heat-retention release control section for controlling the heat retention releasing mechanism based on the temperature detected by the temperature detector.

10. (Previously presented) A battery storing device according to claim 1, wherein the battery is a lithium secondary battery.

11. (Previously presented) A power supply device comprising: a battery storing device according to claim 1; and

a battery stored in the battery storing device.

12. (Original) An electric vehicle comprising: a power supply device according to claim 11; and

an electrically driven mechanism for being driven by power supply from the power supply device.

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13. (Previously presented) A battery storing device according to claim 1, wherein the vacuum heat insulating material is comprised of polyurethane foam grappled in laminated film.

14. (Previously presented) A battery storing device according to claim 1, further comprising a plurality of heat conducting fins; and

a heat conducting body located at said opening for conducting heat between said plurality of fins,

wherein said heat conducting fins communicate with said heat conducting body.

15. (Previously presented) A battery storing device according to claim 1, further comprising a fan located inside said battery storing section.

16. (New) A battery storing device according to claim 1, wherein said battery storing device is installed in a vehicle.

17. (New) A battery storing device according to claim 8, wherein said heat conductor has a first heat conduction body disposed in an opening in a lid body;

a second heat conduction body bonded to a heat insulation body; and

a third heat conduction body,

wherein the second heat conduction body is disposed between the first heat conduction body and the third heat conduction body.

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18. (New) A battery storing device according to claim 1, wherein said heat releasing retention mechanism comprises an opening/closing lid body, wherein magnetic materials are disposed at the ends of the opening/closing lid body.

19. (New) A battery storing device according to claim 18, further comprising a claw for temporarily fixing the opening/closing lid body.

20. (New) A battery storing device according to claim 14, wherein said heat conducting body is not directly attached to the battery.